application to the diverging ports.

- 19 -

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A connection apparatus for a public network switching system includes a switching unit having multiple diverging ports connected to the switching system and multiple converging ports adapted for connection to a number of internet lines. A control unit receives a request signal from a user terminal and establishes in the switching unit a set of branch connections between one of the diverging ports and the converging ports which correspond to internet lines specified by the request signal, where the diverging port is connected through a connection to the user terminal established in the switching system. The internet lines may be directly connected to the switching system. The control unit may request the switching system to establish multiple connections between the converging ports and the internet lines. Each of the converging ports may include a multiplexer for multiplexing a plurality of user signals into a signal for transmission to one of the internet lines and a demultiplexer for demultiplexing a signal from the internet line into a plurality of signals for